



# ANTILLEN REVIEW

Vol. 1, No. 1

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## INDEPENDENCE

'Aruba's problems and challenges'

## SINT MARTIN

'towards better government'

## LABOUR

'no equal opportunity for women'

## AIRLINES

'ALM from a different angle'

## REGATTA

two pages pictorial report

## MEDICINE

'pharmaceutic disorder'

## BOOKS

'relations between Curaçao and Venezuela'



## QUEEN VISITS ANTILLES

'exitó beyond expectation'



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# LITER



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## FROM THE PUBLISHER

After a year of preparations, planning, exchange of ideas with people of all six islands, the first edition of "Antillen Review" just rolled from the presses. As the title may suggest, the primary objective of this publication is not reporting of red-hot news, but to provide the reader with background information about events in our community. After careful deliberations, we have opted for the

English language, thereby creating the possibility to keep readers in other countries informed about the Netherlands Antilles, which, hopefully, will increase their interest and attract future investments. In conclusion we wish to emphasize that Antillen Review is not a political publication, has no political ties, and that the Editor is solely responsible for its journalistic content.

## FROM THE EDITOR

The privilege of being closely involved with the birth of AR was both a proud and exhilarating experience. Many in the Antilles and abroad have contributed to this moment. As AR's first editor I wish to express my great appreciation for their encouragement, inspiring ideas and actual journalistic contributions. AR will continue to call on them for their cooperation, even though their names will seldom be mentioned. A policy dictated by the small scale situation of the respective islands and the country as a whole.

years to come. During the past hundred years the Antilles have seen the births and deaths of many a journalistic undertaking. The challenge implied however is not only the editor's. Also the public plays an important part. AR therefore welcomes letters to editor, criticism and contributions. The content of AR will vary according to developments. Coverage of all the islands will have priority in the planning of every issue.

AR's editorial staff realises that starting a magazine is less of a problem than keeping it alive over the

Freedom of the press is derived from the basic democratic principle of freedom of expression, implying the right to be informed. That principle, integrity and respect will be AR's guiding editorial precepts.

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## Queen visits Antilles

The 'exit' was beyond all expectation. Wherever the young and radiant Queen went she was met by hand-clapping and smiling faces. Observers even wondered if her appearance could still raise such enthusiasm in her own country.

Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands recently visiting the Antilles, still part of her Kingdom, called forth a surprising show of affection. On all the six islands large numbers turned out to greet Her Majesty and His Royal Highness Prince Claus, waving flags and applauding their genuine interest in the Antillean people. Seemingly tireless, the Royal Couple completed an eight-day visit, which kept them on the move sixteen hours a day. Not even for one single moment did they slow down their pace. When an inter-religious open air service, was hit by a torrent of







rain the Queen kept up her high spirits telling everybody how much she enjoyed the occasion.

The Antillean people responded, outdoing their proverbial friendliness with a rare outpour of love. No doubt the visit strengthened the strong emotional ties between this multi-racial people and their far away European Queen of the House of Orange.

The political implications are of no small importance. Welcoming the Queen shortly after her arrival, prime-minister Don Martina in a statesman's-like message chose to emphasize the importance of identity-awareness as the basis for the upcoming talks with the Netherlands about future relationships. Said Mr. Martina: "independence is first and foremost a state of mind". Whether on purpose or not, he was referring to what has characterised the House of Orange all through the ages and made them a symbol of freedom and independence to the Dutch and many beyond their frontiers.







The Queen herself later that day in a speech to the Senate underlined the need to start the discussions about future relations as

quickly as possible. But she also warned the assembled leadership of the Antilles against unwise rashness. "Tomorrow is written today", the Queen pointed out, adding that "it is human to hesitate when making decisions at historically important moments". Keeping well away from actual politics she manifested herself as a true constitutional monarch and few Antillean politicians had trouble to affirm their attachment to her as 'our Queen'. No doubt, the visit of Queen Beatrix went a long way in strengthening the bonds between Holland and the Antilles.

This outcome of the visit stood in sharp contrast to earlier fears of demonstrations and even the use of violence by radical groups. Having voiced their objections against the 'colonial' implications of the Royal visit in the weeks preceding through the media they gave the impression of speaking on behalf of many. Nothing was heard of them during the visit itself, and it was realised that they have little if any support among the people. In fact they may well have harmed

their own cause beyond repair by trying to capitalize on the event.

The Queen, who at several occasions had expressed her delight at being able to make the trip, took all possible pains to meet the Antilleans on their own ground. Setting the tone for her visit she addressed the Senate if only for a few minutes in excellently pronounced papiamento. All those present were pleasantly surprised, some deeply moved. Greatly appreciated too was her gift to the Antillean people of 300.000 guilders meant to be spend on the publication of children's books in english and papiamento.

Although the visit was relatively brief and her agenda overloaded, the Queen managed to visit all the six islands spending at least one night on each of them.

As the huge DC-10 of KLM ascended from Curaçao's airport taking her back to Holland, many realised that her visit had greatly contributed to the future of the country by spreading a new sense of trust and conveying a spirit of strength and hope. ■

photo's by Ken Wong (including on cover)





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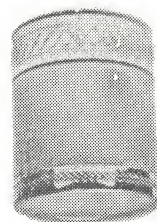
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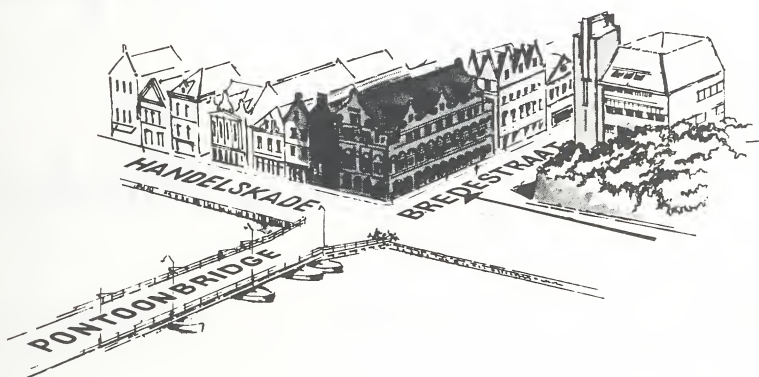
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## Independence poses problems and challenges

A new era was ushered in for the Netherlands Antilles, as the preliminary work for the upcoming Round Table Conference with the Netherlands was concluded early september in The Hague.

The recently published report of the deliberations (see insert page 11), containing a number of basic agreements, leaves little doubt that the relationship between both the two Kingdom partners and the respective islands will undergo drastic changes in the future.

A development not without the taste of victory for Aruba. The accord between all parties concerned to respect the right of self-determination of each of the Antillean islands meets Aruba's longtime aspiration.

The political leaders of the second largest island in population however are now faced with the difficult task of retracting on some campaign promises with regards to the timing of constitutional changes. They also can no longer evade directing their attention to a number of pressing local problems, the neglect of which was tolerated because of the absorption with the independence issue.

Aruba's political scene has in the recent past been almost exclusively dominated by the proceedings within the so called Kingdom Committee (KWG). This committee, installed to work out alternative proposals for the future relationship between the Antilles and Holland as well as between the islands, was used by Aruba from the very beginning as a platform to air its desire for independence in the sense of a 'status aparte'.

This was made possible by the fact that the kingdom Committee, originally planned as a study-group, because of its composition had all the appearances of a political conference. Its members were not only drawn from the diverse fields of expertise, almost all political parties in the country were represented as well.

In retrospect this proved to be an advantage, as hardly any thorough thinking had been done on any of the islands except Aruba with regard to the question of independence. A mere study-group might have produced proposals out of tune with the actual political reality. This was now forestalled. But it also presented Aruba with a most welcome opportunity to insist on its right of self-determination. And as that issue is very close to the majority of Arubans,

the proceedings in the Committee became a first priority overruling all other local issues.

It should for all purposes be remembered that Aruba was not asking for complete independence. Just like the other islands it would like to retain strong ties with Holland at least with regard to military defence, the administration of justice and development aid. What it does aspire is a change in the relationship to the other five islands, in particular Curaçao. Should such a change not be possible, then it prefers to go it alone. An option not open to the smaller islands for obvious economic reasons. Curaçao, being the largest island both in size and population, hosting the national government and most civil services, and having a comfortable majority in the Senate, cherished no such desires. The Dutch would prefer to see the Antilles move towards independence as a whole, mostly because they do not believe in the economic and political viability of any kind of Antillean split-up.

The two most important conclusions of the Kingdom Committee's report indicate the direction of a possible solution, which however may take considerable time to materialise. The basic principle

all parties concerned agreed upon, is the desirability of close cooperation between the islands and of strong ties with the Netherlands. As already indicated above, all parties also admitted the right of self-determination of each of the islands. Combined, the two solemn declarations point in the direction of a kind of commonwealth relationship to Holland and a close alliance between the islands on the basis of international juridical principles.

The first Round Table Conference between the partners of the Kingdom, which will probably be held in January 1981, will have as its main task determining the length of the transition period, during which not only agreement on many details must be reached, but also the process of restructuring should materialise. Estimates vary from 10 to 25 years. Even on Aruba, most eager to push on, many are not convinced that 10 years will suffice. Whatever the outcome, it is clear that the Antilles have moved on to a new phase of development. For Aruba this implies that much needed attention can now be given to local problems and tensions.

The most frustrating problems Aruba's political leaders faced in the just concluded period, was lack of time. So much energy was devoted to the work of the Kingdom Committee, that opposition, trade-unions, industry and other groups could hardly be given an ear. With a view to what was at stake, this seemed acceptable to most. It did however introduce a dangerous trend, which should urgently be reversed. The accusation that democracy on Aruba has been jeopardised is not altogether without truth. And this may constitute the main challenge Aruba's foremost leader, mr. Betico Croes, has to face. The hour has come, according to political commentators, for mr. Croes to demonstrate not only shrewdness on the party level but also statesmanlike stature. Insiders suggest that he might learn a little from that other great Antillean politician of this



hour, mr. Don Martina, who managed to rise above party politics assuming the role of a national leader. Rather than devote himself to defending his own party, attacking others and working for a next electoral victory, mr. Croes should now direct his attention towards the future of the coming generations.

The urgent need for capable leadership in all realms of society, without which no viable indigenous future is possible, asks for a broad vision and corresponding cour-

ageous measures. Increasing numbers of well trained Antilleans are available to assume leading positions. Many of them however are scared off because appointments are still made on the basis of party loyalty. The exit of competent young Antilleans, in particular from Aruba, to Holland is apparently on the increase. Although politicians may boast that the Antilles, including Aruba, is a free democratic country, it should be realised that curtailing careers by such practices as mentioned, give that concept a very relative ring to many people!

much the question whether this issue should still have the priority, mr. Croes is presently claiming for it. Political observers in Aruba are of the opinion that fear for losing votes, is the main motive behind mr. Croes' drive. They point out that the majority of Arubans is quite aware of the fact that the transition period may take at least ten years, implying an acceptance of the fact that other priorities should have prevalence. No party has ever lost votes retracting on earlier promises when an obvious change in priorities had occurred. Mr. Croes' fear, it is believed, is unnecessary and his present obstinacy unwise.

The nature of some recent conflicts between Aruba's majority party MEP and the Chamber of Commerce as well as with representa-

tives of industry, indicate a real threat to democracy. The loyalty demanded in the past years to back up the struggle for the recognition by Holland and Curaçao of Aruba's right of self-determination is one thing. Blind loyalty to MEP and its leader mr. Croes quite another. Mr. Croes' insistence that industry representatives co-sign a letter to The Hague requesting the first Round Table Conference meeting to be held before the end of the year, without letting them first read the Kingdom Committee's report, was definitely out

of order. As was his subsequent public scolding of these people, who in the recent past gave a valuable contribution to Aruba's cause.

Now that Aruba has made its point and scored an important victory it should be careful to maintain its unity by democratic means. In particular because a time of important decision making lies ahead.

The time in which all could rally behind the banner of the one great ideal is over. The time in which decisions will have to be made on an endless number of details has announced itself. And that process can only succeed when all concerned are allowed to inform themselves properly and express their opinion freely. ■



*KWG-chairman Biesheuvel (right) and Aruba's Betico Croes.*

photo by Django Simoons



## EXCERPTS FROM THE KINGDOM COMMITTEE'S (KWG) REPORT.

The Kingdom Committee had as task to make an inventory of and propose possible new relationships between the islands of the Netherlands Antilles mutually, between the islands and the Netherlands Antilles, and between the Netherlands Antilles and the Netherlands.

... it proceeded from the wish expressed by all members to arrive at an as close as possible cooperation between the islands mutually and a special relation with the Netherlands, this despite differences in views.

... in that perspective the Kingdom Committee reached the conclusion that in the interest of the Netherlands Antilles the transition to this final situation should take place gradually and according to plan.

... the Kingdom Committee recommends the first Round Table Conference to specifically endorse the right of self-determination of each of the islands.

... the members from Aruba opt for independence for Aruba with as close as possible cooperative relation with the other islands on the basis of international law and with a kind of commonwealth relation with the Netherlands.

... the member from Bonaire is of the opinion that in first instance the right of self-determination must be exercised by forming an as close as possible constitutional relation with the other islands of the Netherlands Antilles. In any other case the member prefers maintaining constitutional ties between Bonaire and the Netherlands and considers this also as exercising the right of self-determination.

... the members from Curaçao prefer forming a federal state consisting of the six islands.

... the members from the Windward Islands are of the opinion that these islands must not make use of the right of self-determination if this means opting for independence, neither separately nor all three together, nor as part of an Antillean state form. For the time being they prefer to maintain constitutional ties between the Windward Islands and the Netherlands. They think that the current legal order must in principle continue to exist. For the rest they are willing to cooperate towards changes within this legal order.

... the change to the cooperative relation in the final situation should be realised gradually and according to plan during the transition period. In this period the emphasis will initially be on the further execution of the decentralisation process and the elimination of the existing bottlenecks in the relations between the islands, while subsequently a new cooperative relation among the islands must be put to the test.

... Partition of the insular territory of the Windward Islands will express the juridical and political equality of all the islands and should be effected on the shortest possible term.

... in a cooperative relation consisting of independent and equal islands each island should be represented in the Senate. This would have to be realised at the coming Senate elections.



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## INDEPENDENCE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

experts warn Antilles:  
much work and many pitfalls

The recent presentation of the book "Aspects of international law with regard to Antillean Independence", was not without a sobering effect. Commented Prof. H. Meijers in charge of the final editing: "if the Antilles wish to become independent, a lot of work has yet to be done. Little do people realise the far reaching consequences certain steps may have"!

The 682 page volume is the result of at least two years of work by Antillean and Dutch scholars. Having met for three days in Amsterdam earlier this year to discuss each other's papers, it was

decided to make their findings available to the public. Giving an almost exhaustive enumeration of all the problems and possibilities concerning international law that may arise should the Antilles become independent, the book must be labelled a most valuable contribution to the future of the country.

Antilles' minister plenipotentiary in The Hague, mr. Ron Casseres, spoke upon being presented with the first copy of a 'revelation'. Said mr. Casseres: "an enormous load of work still has to be done before we can become independent". Noting that on the political level there is by no means as yet agreement about the questions 'if' and 'when', he expressed his gratitude that this preliminary work in any case has been done.

The contributions of some 25 experts also make clear that many pitfalls will have to be evaded.

Rushing into independence may lead to painful surprises afterwards as many countries, which recently became independent have discovered. A thorough preparation in particular with regard to international juridical aspects is definitely no luxury.

Prof. J. E. Spruit, rector magnificus of the university of the Netherlands Antilles, who coordinated the work of the Antillean experts, testified to their outstanding contributions during his speech on the occasion of opening the academic year. Said he to Review: the book signifies an important step forward on the road to independence. ■

"Volkenrechtelijke aspecten van Antilliaanse onafhankelijkheid" is published by Tjeenk Willink in Alphen aan de Rijn, Holland. Nf. 78.-

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## BONAIRE

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photo by Roger Snow

### Hopeful prospects for new marina

Bonaire renowned for its ideal sailing waters and its famed yearly international sailing regatta boasts a new marina, so reads the latest Holiday tourist information guide. And sure enough the marina is worth boasting about.

Besides offering almost 90 yachts a berth and their crews the regular facilities, the marina has also at its disposal a yard unique in the region. Declares manager Nico Blok: "our nearest competitors are Tortola, Grenada and Miami". The possible introduction of a bill allowing prospective yachtowners considerable tax exemption will no doubt make Bonaire a strong contender on that list.

Operational since October '79 the 90% government-owned Bonaire Werf en Jachthaven NV. provides yachts up to 140 ton and 100 ft.

yard and drydock facilities. The ship-elevation platform with horizontal lift and transfer system is the largest and most modern in the surrounding area. Its target-market is obviously Venezuela where, according to Mr. Blok, ownership of yachts over 80 ft. runs close to 300.

Though competitors like Miami may offer more attractions to crews, often consisting of wives and children, the closeness of Bonaire and its unsurpassed peacefulness are clear assets. Already the trend points in the direction of the flamingo island.

The Yachtclub provides members and overnight-guests with restroom facilities. A small but attractive restaurant on the premises opens every night serving dinner for us\$ 8-10. Plans have been developed to start in the near future with the construction of what will eventually amount to a total of 54 two-bedroom bungalows. With a full view on Bonaire's beautiful main bay, they will be sold as condominiums for approximately us\$ 100,000.—.

Expectations are that the marina will contribute considerably to the small island's economy. In particular if the national government would decide to pass a bill granting at least non-residents of the Netherlands Antilles permission to buy and register yachts through so called offshore-holdings, without levying import-duties. Such a measure might well attract many longterm customers, adding to the island's income and decreasing its unemployment rate. Whether the government will do so however is still an open question. An alternative proposal put on its table suggesting to lower the import duties on yachts or to abolish them altogether, thereby also favouring residents, has the disadvantage of being politically inopportune.

Insiders believe that a prompt and favourable decision on the first proposition may lure away yacht-owners now registered in Panama. In any case it will certainly help to raise the marina's occupancy, which already averages a 50%. ■



### Agreement on ship-demolition yard

A principle agreement was concluded between the government of the Netherlands and a group of German enterprises under direction of Eisen und Metall AG of Gelsenkirchen to proceed with the establishment of a ship-demolition yard on Curaçao.

The intention is to form two companies, viz. a production company, which will reduce ships to scrap and in which the Antillean government will be the largest

shareholder, and a commercial enterprise, which will purchase scrap ships for the production company, sell the more or less refined scrap and carry out other commercial activities. The plan is to set up this enterprise on a 50/50 basis.

#### Principle agreement reached

According to Mr. van Waasdijk, former managing director of the Curaçao Drydock Co., who acts as adviser to the Government of the Netherlands Antilles, the ship-demolition project has good possibilities for the future. Essential is that it is established at deep water frontage, which means that a new location must be developed,

as the Schottegat in Curaçao is practically completely occupied.

The first ideas concerning the establishment of a ship-demolition yard on Curaçao date back to 1974. In that year the Shell tanker Metula was shipwrecked off Cape Horn. The ship, which had a dw tonnage of 210.000 was sold as scrap, but after that there were lots of problems before a spot was found in the Atlantic where she could be demolished.

Mr. van Waasdijk, "At the time this event drew a lot of attention in the demolition world. The Curaçao Drydock Co. also showed interest. It was realised that there were few harbours in the world where large

photo by Pim Elisabeth





tankers (of more than 222.000 tons) can be demolished. Further that deep water is required herefor and that this is to be found amply in the Netherlands Antilles. In other words if a ship-demolition yard meeting certain requirements could be built on e.g. Curaçao, the yard would occupy a unique position provided it be extended in time”.

The discussions following afterwards led to contacts with Eisen und Metall Ag, a leading German enterprise in the ship-demolition and scrap business. Mr. W. Rams-horst, a member of the board of directors, conducted the consultations relating thereto with Curaçao.

The Netherlands Antillean government would invest around NAF. 12 to 12.5 million in quays with all appurtenances and access roads. The equipment of the enterprise also requires an investment of around NAF. 12.5 million. In the event of an annual processing of 85.000 tons a year the ship-demolition yard would provide employment for 185 to 270 men, dependent upon the method of scrap processing. In addition extra jobs would be created in the indirect sphere like e.g. in shipcleaning activities and in the field of ancillary industry.

“Through this project the Netherlands Antilles will be in the position

of a ferrometal producer, without incurring the enormous costs and running the risks several developing countries wishing to join the club of complete producers in the metal field by means of ore-handling and rolling have been subjected to” says van Waasdijk.

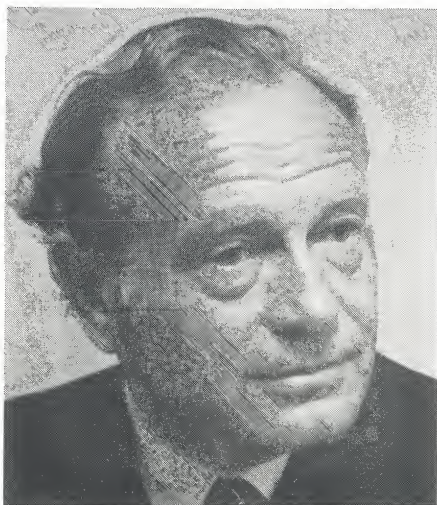
### Reaction Eisen und Metall

“Towards the end of this year we want to form the companies referred to and early next year we hope to be able to start with the building activities” says B. Andreas, who coordinates the Eisen und Metall activities in connection with the project.

In a reaction to ‘Wereldmarkt’ he declares that Eisen und Metall sees good perspectives for a ship-demolition yard on Curaçao, especially on the long run. He is thinking of a period of 10 to 15 years. This against the background of the growing steel industry in Latin America, which is principally based on electro-steel, for which scrap is the most important raw material. As the domestic scrap supply is qualitively and quantitively insufficient, these countries have to fall back on import, especially from the United States. Ships’ scrap is qualitively the best scrap there is, says Mr. Andreas.

Eisen und Metall has been in the ship-demolition business for sixty

H. van Waasdijk, adviser to the Antillean government for Project-development, arrived on Curaçao in 1947 as Shipping Master of the Curaçaoose Scheepvaart Maatschappij. In 1967 he was appointed managing director of the Curaçao Drydock Company. Under his management the new 120.000 ton dock was built. This also implied a thorough reorganisation of the company. Mr. van Waasdijk, who was amongst the first to promote Antilleans to leading positions, is of the opinion that governments must of necessity part-



H. van Waasdijk.

icipate increasingly in projects of any real significance. The time of pure entrepreneurship is passed, he states. However, as the government is not geared for this role, it should take care to attract the proper knowhow. Mr. van Waasdijk is quite optimistic about Curaçao’s future. Its deep harbour still offers many possibilities. What is needed, according to him, is coherent industrial planning. The about to be built ship-demolition yard is at least one step forward.

But more according to van Waasdijk, can and should follow.

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This article first appeared in  
Wereldmarkt, July 31, 1980  
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## Shaping up St. Martin's administration

The mood is still a trifle defiant. In the dock for almost two years, accused of grossly mismanaging their public affairs and letting corruption run rampant St. Martiners tend to overemphasize the continuing rapid growth of their tourist-industry. No doubt the 30% increase in hotel accomodation, the high and steady occupancy rates and increase of incoming charter flights, justify some pride. But more important to restoring their selfesteem is the conclusion of a recent investigation, pinpointing past Central Governments as the main culprits for St. Martin's administrative chaos. Rather than being on the defensive St. Martin's leaders now have every reason to join the present government in its impressive efforts to help the island put order to its house.

Mr. A. van der Stee threatened to stop all development aid. It was even suggested that a trustee be appointed, endowed with far reaching powers. A commission of inquiry, appointed by the former government in Willemstad published a report devastating in its general content, but vague in detail. Although the report, known as the Bakhuis report, contained numerous proposals for improving St. Martin's administration it did not provide the hoped for proof of malversations. Looking back this may have been all for the better, as otherwise a witchhunt might have ensued, causing turmoil in the small island community for years to come.

Mr. Martina's government chose a more positive approach. First of all it stated firmly that it was the island and central governments prerogative to look into the trouble in St. Martin. Unless the government in Willemstad should ask for its intervention Holland should keep its hands off. The Hague readily concurred. During a session of the Dutch parliament last february minister van der Stee expressed the opinion of his government that intervention in the local affairs of any island, as provided for in article 93 of the Kingdom Act, should be seen as an 'ultimum remedium'. Obviously hopeful that Mr. Martina's new government would succeed where others had failed, he offered all possible assistance particularly in the sphere of knowhow.

Later that same month the Antillean parliament (Senate) invited Mr. Martina's government to submit within two months a plan of action to arrive at an optimal government on the windward islands. A coordination committee was appointed which started forthwith to draw up outlines, listing all hitherto undertaken steps, systematising earlier advices and interviewing politicians and civil servants on St. Martin. In June the government presented parliament with the findings of the committee. The report showed an impressive number of steps being taken and indicated the



*Prime Minister explaining government strategy to St. Martin's press.*

When Mr. Don Martina took over the office of prime-minister almost exactly one year ago, the situation in St. Martin was still very worrisome. Earlier in 1979

Dutch politicians had voiced their great concern about alleged corruption on the island and the failure of public services. Holland's minister in charge of Antillean affairs,



direction the government intends to go.

A first conclusion reads that the above mentioned Bakhuis report is not broad enough in scope to provide the basis for an integral plan of action, as it focuses almost exclusively on financial matters. Also noting that most measures taken in the meantime are too much of an ad hoc nature, the government wishes to arrive at an analysis of the economic development, in particular of the tourist industry and building trade. On the basis of such an analysis a long term strategy will be drawn up with regard to the government services. The coordination committee meanwhile will continue its work. Parliament was promised a three monthly report.

The obvious intent of the present government in its effort to remedy the situation on the Windward Islands and St. Martin in particular is to do so by means of a positive contribution rather than nailing the possibly guilty ones. An approach confirmed by the report of a committee installed last July to advise the government what steps should be taken at short notice to bring St. Martin's government up to par. The introduction to the report, known as the Gorsira report, published in August states that the committee fully agrees with the Central Government that instead of ferreting out the past, an effort should be made to create such a climate that the island government can operate optimally and the disclosed irregularities prevented. The writers of the report, however, do dig into the past themselves when they express their amazement at the fact that it took so long before any correcting action was taken. They refer to a report by Mr. Th. Thyssen, former director of the department of economic affairs, published in 1971 (!) and many statements of the exchequer and audit departments, all of which express concern about the state of affairs in St. Martin. They conclude that the successive Central Governments as well as the Kingdom Government failed badly. As proper supervision was not

exercised because of politically motivated hush-ups in Willemstad and exaggerated fear of neo-colonialism in The Hague it seems unfair to put all the blame on the island government of St. Martin. As one member of the coordination committee remarked: 'summing it all up the party most guilty is Willemstad'. No doubt these statements, though not acquitting St. Martin, have by virtue of their balanced judgement helped greatly to create the desired climate.

The report goes beyond face saving, however, when it praises St. Martin for being the island with the relatively highest economic progress in the Antilles. Neither St. Martin nor the Antilles as a whole have benefited much from this progress. There is a painful disparity both between the level of the economy and the standard of public services, and between the boom in the tourist industry and the average earnings of the common St. Martiners. While the Antilles are wrestling with a structural unemployment problem on some of the islands, almost 50% of all workers on St. Martin are foreigners, 80% of which have entered the island illegally. Praising St. Martin on this score therefore seems a little overdone.

The progress made meanwhile in shaping up St. Martin's administration is remarkable and does deserve praise. Working in increasingly close concert the Central and Island Governments set out to improve both the democratic functioning and the administrative organisation. In order to grant even the smallest opposition a voice, guaranteeing better control on government and balanced information, a change of law has been proposed to parliament that would grant one member of the island's parliament the right to demand that a meeting be held. To improve the flow of information between the Central Government and the Windward Islands the national parliament approved the appointment of a spokesman for each of the three Windward Islands. They will attend its meetings in addition to the one senator, who represents all three islands.

Furthermore a proposal has been sent in to make it mandatory to hold a public debate on the budget of each island. Up till now the yearly budget was approved by a committee, which did not exactly promote the democratic process.

With regard to the functioning of both the Central and Island Government services a number of measures were and are being taken. Most of them concern the upgrading of staffing. Both the Netherlands and Curaçao made available the needed experts. Much energy is being devoted to reconstructing the finances of the island. Notable progress was already made on the collecting of overdue taxes. Many problems and bottlenecks however still remain to be solved.

The present development no doubt gives hope for the future. In particular because the present Central Government has chosen to as much as possible make use of indigenous expertise. Only in the last instance the government has and will continue to apply for assistance to the Netherlands.

One big question mark still remains. The Bakhuis report suggests that St. Martin could, when properly run, be self supporting. The Gorsira report on the other hand does not think so. Even if a surplus on the balance could be achieved, the latter states, so much will have to be invested in the infrastructure of the island that for years to come assistance from the Central Government and the Netherlands will be needed.

In any case it seems obvious that St. Martin at last is catching up and moving towards a more healthy and stable future. ■

*Members of the abovementioned Coordination Committee are:*

R. J. Lopez Ramirez  
R. F. Pieternella  
W. R. Voges.

*The "Gorsira-report" was compiled by:*

M. P. Gorsira  
H. van der Horst  
V. J. Salas.





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### Growing importance offshore companies

For those who envisage the future of the Netherlands Antilles as a service-centre for the region and beyond, the rapid growth of the offshore-industry is a most welcome development. Though few realise because of the natural secretiveness of this type of business, the offshore industry is already one of the larger employers in the country, contributing close to 30% of the national income. Even though forces beyond the control of the Antillean government threaten to curtail the profitable operations, on the long run insiders are confident about its future.

Although the development of this industry dates back to the mid-fifties, it did not achieve any real importance until ten years later. By the early seventies the Antilles were securely established on the international finance map. During the past decade the industry has

grown at a surprisingly high rate. Careful estimates have it that at least 12.000 offshore holdings are registered by now. Besides some very large, and a number of smaller management companies, 22 offshore banks operate in Curaçao as well. At least 1.000 people are

presently employed in this branch each earning an average of 20.000 – 25.000 antillean guilders a year.

In 1979 the direct income for the government on the island of Curaçao amounted to 82 million guilders. To these revenues from corporate income tax must be added the income from personal income-tax, bringing the governments total revenue close to a hundred million guilders.

Vital as the industry has become to the Netherlands Antilles, residents of the six-island archipelago profit only indirectly.

Neither individuals nor corporations residing in the country itself can be shareholders of such companies. Licenses issued by the Department of Economic Affairs and the Central Bank, required

photo by Pim Elisabeth





to qualify for registration, normally rule out this possibility.

Provisions in the personal and corporate income-tax laws moreover make it very unattractive to be shareholder.

The Netherlands Antilles are, in fact, only a partial tax haven. Partial because of the distinction made between onshore and offshore.

The difference between the two is striking as regard the tax rates applied. Rates for onshore-companies vary from 27 to 39 percent, while the usual offshore rates vary from 3 to 6 percent. And even the concept tax haven in the usual sense does not apply. In contrast to other well known tax havens, such as Panama, Grand Cayman and the Bahamas, the Netherlands Antilles' government does levy taxes on offshore companies. Some therefore prefer to speak about a 'low-tax country' in order to emphasize the difference.

Another aspect which puts the Netherlands Antilles in a category quite distinct from other tax havens is that of the existing tax treaties.

It should be remembered that the Antilles are still formally a part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Most treaties enacted by The Hague include the possibility of extension to the Antilles. With regard to the United States, the United King-

dom, Denmark and Norway this has been effected.

The relation to the Netherlands itself is regulated by a Kingdom Act, which technically should be called a tax treaty, but for constitutional purposes cannot be qualified as such.

It should at this point be mentioned that treaty negotiations have altered the earlier mentioned rates under certain circumstances from 3 to 6 percent and even introduced rates up to 30 percent. This applies in particular to the treaties with the United Kingdom and the USA. However, at present it remains profitable to conduct business through the Antilles since certain financial manipulations make it possible to bring down the percentages considerably.

These last mentioned loopholes have prompted the USA to renegotiate the existing treaty. It should be noted that the treaty with this country is tax wise the most important for the Netherlands Antilles. The philosophy developed in Washington is that non-residents of the two contracting countries should not be entitled to the benefits of the treaty. The international Council of the Treasury bluntly stated: "a treaty with one country is not a treaty with the world". Should Washington get its way, the Netherlands Antilles would suffer greatly. However, more than just tax-revenue motives play a role. Reliable sources are reasonably hopeful that the negotiations still under way will work out well. As was stated by one expert involved: "in spite of major changes in the treaty, the outcome will be acceptable".

The introduction of a 'legislation to eliminate loopholes' in the Dutch parliament will if passed – about which there is little doubt – damage the offshore industry to some extent. The legislation concerns privately owned investment companies, a mere 6% of the total of Antillean based offshore companies. The Dutch proposed legislation implies that in the future privately owned offshore invest-

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ment companies will have to pay taxes on an estimated 6% investment return instead of the current 3.6%, thereby making it not worthwhile to go or remain offshore.

Although the local press branded the proposed legislation as being directed against the Antilles, it should be noted that the measure concerns all Dutch originating offshore companies in whatever tax haven they are registered.

In spite of the abovementioned developments, the over all prospects give cause for optimism. The political and economic stability of the Netherlands Antilles still form a major attraction to foreign companies. Both the government and the most reknown management companies are eager to combine a high level performance with a low profile policy. Pleaded mr. Hoogenkamp, director of the ABN-trust company at the dedication of its new premises almost a year ago: there is an urgent need to guarantee the quality and trustworthiness of the trust-industry by legal regulation! A plea which has not gone unheeded. There is a growing awareness of the vital importance of the industry to the country, which demands highly qualified personnel and first rate tele-communications. Expectations are that following the conclusion of the negotiations with the USA, the industry will continue to grow, be it at a somewhat slower pace than during the Seventies.

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At the outset of the nineteen seventies all the islands of the Netherlands Antilles were afflicted with structural unemployment. Since then much has changed. Both the working population and the number of available jobs have increased. The expansion of employment however did not conduce to a reduction or termination of unemployment on all of the islands.

To be unemployed implies much human suffering both for men and women. But when the economy recedes women are the first to lose their jobs. If the situation improves men will be the first to profit.

The reduction of unemployment on Aruba and its increase on Curaçao during the past eight years prove this beyond doubt.

Last June and July the Bureau of Statistics organised a test census both on Aruba and Curaçao. In

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### Women and the labour market

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Position women in labour market  
deteriorates

by *Ellie Wempe*

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spite of its limited scope the findings do provide a reasonably trustworthy indication of the latest developments. It became evident that unemployment in Aruba had decreased from 17.3% in 1972 to 9.5% in 1980. In Curaçao the figure went up during that same period from 13.8% to 21.1%.

The Commission Integral Development Planning (WIO) late '79 qualified the unemployment in Aruba as frictional-unemployment, which means that quantitatively the supply of labour equaled the demand. The still existing unemployment is caused by a discrepancy between available manpower and required know-how.

Curaçao and Bonaire according to the findings of WIO are still beset by structural unemployment problems. An increase was established both in absolute and relative terms. Structural unemployment is the almost unsolvable part of the problem, which continues to exist even in times of economic boom.

The figures for Aruba are encouraging. Though many countries experienced a decline in their economy, Aruba at least made considerable progress with regard to the employment problem.



photo by Pim Elisabeth



Labour Market	Participation Rates				Unemployment Percentages			
	Aruba		Curaçao		Aruba		Curaçao	
	1972	1980	1972	1980	1972	1980	1972	1980
Males age 15-64	78,5	79,5	77,1	78,3	16,0	6,6	10,2	14,3
Females age 15-64	34,4	40,6	36,6	53,4	20,1	14,6	20,1	31,2
Males and females age 15-64	55,8	61,4	57,9	65,3	17,3	9,5	13,8	21,2

$$\text{Participation rate} = \frac{\text{employed and unemployed}}{\text{total population}}$$

$$\text{Unemployment percentage} = \frac{\text{unemployed}}{\text{employed and unemployed}}$$

The alarming proportion of unemployment in Curaçao was already well known. Affecting all segments of society, it also partially explains the enormous rise in crime.

The findings of the test census become even more interesting where they provide specification of the unemployment, differentiating between men and women.

From 1972 till 1980 male unemployment rose in Curaçao with 4.1% in absolute terms of the labour force. The percentage of jobless women went up 11.1%. During that same period the rate for men in Aruba went down 9.4% and for women 5.5%. *From this it can be concluded that both in Aruba and Curaçao the situation with regard to working women has relatively deteriorated since 1972.*

Interesting too are the data supplied by the census about the participation of the population in its totality in the labour market. The participation figure indicates what percentage of the population has work or is looking for a job. Both in Aruba and Curaçao the participation rate has apparently gone up, which implies that more are working or want to work.

In Aruba the percentage shows an increase from 55.8% to 61.4% over the period 1972 till 1980. For Curaçao the figures are 57.9% to 65.3%.

The participation percentages specified for men and women are noteworthy. In Aruba the participation percentage of the total male population went up with 1.2%. For women however an increase of 6.2% was established. In Curaçao the figure for men shows the same increase as in Aruba: 1.2%. The participation percentage for women rose considerably. During those eight years it went up with no less than 16.8%! More than half the women on Curaçao in the age-group 15 - 65 are either working or looking for a job.

This rise in the participation rate among the women of Aruba and Curaçao is easily accounted for. The fact that the Antillean

woman is involved in a slow but gradually growing process of emancipation certainly plays an important role. An increasing number of women are conscious of their ability to function as a mature member of society. For many of them this leads to the desire to take part in the labour process in order to develop themselves.

Still the deterioration of the economic situation particularly on Curaçao may be considered the main cause for the increased participation of women in the labour market. More women went to work or looked for a job in order to help out with the family income. Either the husband had lost his job or his income was no longer sufficient because of the rising cost of living.

Both the reports of 'de Gemengde Commissie' and WIO point out the demand for skilled labour in particular with regard to newly created jobs. Those who are skilled can find work relatively easy e.g. in the service rendering professions. The largest percentage of unemployed is to be found in the category of unskilled labour. It is from within this category, which is also the lowest income group, that many women have joined the labour market.

*It stands to reason that their worse economic situation is the main reason for these women to participate on the labour market.*

#### EMPLOYEDS BY OCCUPATION GROUP AND SEX 1971

	Percentage of total employed	Breakdown by sex		Proportional female representation	Percentage male occupational force	Percentage female occupational force
		Male	Female			
Administrative force	17,5	55,3	44,7	+ 12,0	14,4	23,8
Sales force	9,8	45,4	54,6	+ 21,8	6,6	16,3
Service force	17,8	41,1	58,9	+ 25,2	10,9	32,0
Industrial and professional force	41,3	89,9	10,1	- 22,4	55,0	13,0

+ = overrepresentation

- = underrepresentation

Source: "Hopi Man Sin Pan"





The conclusion which must be drawn is that the position of women in the labour market has deteriorated during the past eight years particularly on Curaçao.

*no equal opportunity*

The total population of the Netherlands Antilles numbers approximately 250.000 of which 38% is under fifteen years of age. The Bureau of Statistics estimated the annual increase of the labour force in 1978 for Curaçao at 1360 and for Aruba at 450. It needs little imagination to realise the enormity of the task the authorities are facing with regard to creating employment. A situation moreover in which women appear to have less chance of finding work than men.

Although women are slightly in the majority, in 1971 they formed only 32.8% of the total labour force. Of the female labour force 19.3% was unemployed.

Of the 10.453 unemployed in 1971 (14.6% of the labour force) 4903 or approximately 50% were women. As they form only one third of the total labour force, it may be concluded that female unemployment is relatively larger than male unemployment.

The majority of working men (55%) was employed in industry and trade. A minority (6.6%) worked in the commercial sector. Most women however were employed in service rendering professions (32%) and only a minority of 13% worked in industry and trade.

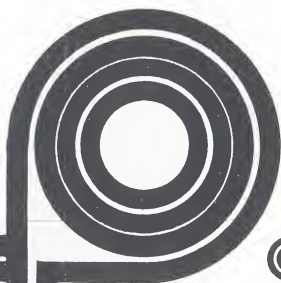
It is interesting to note that more women worked in the service-rendering and administrative professions than one might expect on the basis of the female participation in the productive process. Statisticians call this phenomena overrepresentation. Women form only 31% of the working population. No less than 58% of those employed in the service-rendering professions were women. An over-representation of 25.2% (58% - 32.8%). Of those who worked in the commercial



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professions 54.6% were women and 45.4% men.

Also in this last case women were over-represented (21.8%), while men were under-represented by the same percentage. In industry and trade however women were highly under-represented (22.4%).

In 1971, half the working population was paid less than Naf. 350.— a month, 28% earned somewhere between 350 and 650 and only 22% made more than last figure. Naturally these figures have gone up since then. They do remain interesting however because the spreading of men and women over the different income categories of that year ('71) is also known.

Working women were represented in the lowest income group by 72.5%, in the middle group by 17.7% and only 9.8% realised the highest.

For men these figures were: 39.0% in the lowest, 33.0% in the middle and 28% in the highest income group.

Thus women were spread over the three income groups: 7.4 : 1.8 : 1. Men were spread more evenly: 1.4 : 1.2 : 1.

Judging from the above data there are relatively 5.3 times more women than men in the lowest income group. The proportion between the number of men and women in the lowest group is almost equal.

As the income goes up the proportion between the number of men and women becomes increasingly unequal. In the highest income group men outnumber women 6 to 1.

The conclusion is that women were over-represented in the lowest income group by 14.8% i.e. more women are found in this category than might be expected on the basis of their participation in the productive process. There they shared for only 32.8%, where in the lowest category they reach 47.5%.

Women were under-represented in both the other two categories.

Income group (per month)	Percentage of total employed	Breakdown by sex		Proportional female representation	Percentage male occupational force	Percentage female occupational force
		Male	Female			
A. Less than fls. 350.—	50,0	52,5	47,5	+ 14,8	39,0	72,5
B. fls. 350.— — fls. 650.—	28,0	79,2	20,8	- 11,9	33,0	17,7
C. More than fls. 650.—	22,0	85,4	14,6	- 18,1	28,0	9,8

+ = overrepresentation

- = underrepresentation

Source: "Hopi Man Sin Pan"

In the highest income group they were under-represented with 18.1%.

The WIO (Commission Integral Planning) concludes on the basis of these findings-

1. that apparently as the income in certain professions goes up, these professions become less accessible for women.
2. that most probably there were less women available with the required skill for these professions than men.

In those professions, which do not involve heavy physical labour, women are over-represented. They are also over-represented in the lowest income category. Apparently the professions concerned were more accessible to women. WIO assumes that this greater accessibility is caused by the lower remuneration women receive for their labour. Moreover women are probably more willing to do certain types of work than men are.

On Curaçao leading positions appeared in 1971 to be almost exclusively occupied by men. Women were under-represented in this category by as much as 19.8%. Analyses according to sections show the following:

In the administrative profession women were under-represented with regard to the leading positions with 24.4%, while in general

they were over-represented in these professions by 13.9%.

In the service-rendering professions they were also under-represented with 13% in the same positions. In all no leading positions they were however over-represented. In domestic work they were over-represented with as much as 58.3%.

WIO just states these figures and gives no explanation. It would seem however that the level of skill is not the reason. For it was established that the proportion between unskilled and skilled workers equals the proportion between men and women that partake in the productive process: 1 : 2.

The question remains whether it might be that Curaçao-men do not readily accept females in leading positions. If so should this attitude be ascribed to the matriarchal structure of our society or to still existing machismo?

Unfortunately only the data concerning the level of skill of that part of the population that takes part in the productive process are available. The data of the skill level with regard to the total population have not yet been analysed. It is however known that in the period 73 - 77 the level of skill among unemployed women was higher than among unemployed men. All this justifies the conclusion that on all levels there is less opportunity for women to find the jobs they want than for men. ■





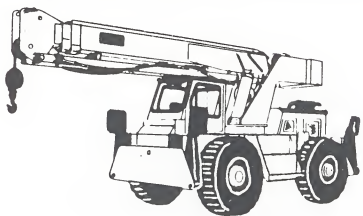
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### University's structural problem

"It is with great pleasure that I put on record that the Law-school, which I was privileged to open on the 10th of September eight years ago, has in the meantime grown into an institute of higher education, characteristic of our caribbean region and worthy of the name the University of the Netherlands Antilles . . . in accordance with the groundwork done . . . to achieve within the university the integration of all existing and for our country new forms of scientific and higher education, including the realisation of strong ties between the respective courses".

Governor B. M. Leito at the official dedication of the University of the Netherlands Antilles, September 10, 1979.

Almost exactly one year later the last part of that proud opening sentence was discouragingly belied by the disclosure of a fundamentally structural disharmony between the three schools, which make up the university. Escalation of a minor conflict within the technical department soon involved all faculties, the board of trustees and even the minister of education.

And although much attention focused on the direct cause of stud-

ent protest, it soon became clear that structural incoherence was at the bottom of the dismaying upheaval.

When early in 1979 the senate passed a bill providing the legal basis for the establishment of a university, preparations were already in an advanced stage to fuse the seven year old lawschool with the somewhat younger School of Business Administration and Higher Technical College. All three were structured according to different models

and although it was realised from the outset that this asked for a lot of adaptation and restructuring, the difficulties involved were clearly underestimated.

The lawschool was an identical replica of the traditional university faculties of law in the Netherlands. In fact its degrees were recognised as being of the same level. Many of its tutors were and are lent by dutch universities.

The school of Business Administration was modelled after the american concept. Several of its young and highly capable Antillean staff members were trained in the USA. Although both schools were based on different concepts, they were obviously of university level. And as each faculty would be relatively independent, not too many difficulties were expected bringing the two together in one organizational setup.

Matters were quite different however with regards to the Technical College. This school had been set up as a vocational training college. Its admission requirements were decidedly lower than those of the other two. Few of its teachers had

*University building in Willemstad*



photo by Firm Elisabeth



any university experience. Their salaries were accordingly assessed at a lower scale. The idea was to elevate the school step by step to the level of an undergraduate course granting successful students a bachelor's degree.

Maybe this process of restructuring should have taken place before joining up with the other two faculties. But it wasn't. And so from the beginning there were great differences in student level, tutor's salaries and even in such relatively unimportant questions as vacation schedules.

The Technical College after joining was still run as a highschool. Its tutors reportedly did not even themselves develop a university attitude.

The board of trustees on the other hand underrated the potential danger for conflict. Its highly esteemed members found too little time to meet regularly because of their extremely tight schedules. An important drawback was that there was no one available to prepare their meetings adequately. As a result the decision making process slowed down to the point that many began to feel a vacuum of government.

This led some to push the university-council, a body set up for coordinating purposes, to assume management responsibilities. Unavoidably this led to more tension and conflict.

Productivity in the meantime was low. Very few students of the Technical College and Business Administration School took their finals in the past years. Of the latter's 1979-freshmen only 18% qualified for the second year.

All these problems however were and are no doubt surmountable. They should be considered the birthpangs of a new institution. Besides, talks were going on to solve the salary-question. A chancellor to assist the Board of Trustees was being sought. A democratisation process was on its way. Educational problems were being studied.

Then suddenly the campus erupted. Mostly because a few staff-members of the Technical College and outside forces used the highly inflammable situation to their own ends.

The first rumblings looked innocent enough. Students at the Technical College protested against a sudden and rather late announcement of a change in entrance-requirements for freshmen.

Quite understandably this step in the direction of levelling up the College caused disappointment in those who would now be forced to take a preliminary course before entering the college proper.

But it certainly does not explain the painful developments of the following weeks, virtually closing down the entire university.

There seems little doubt now that the student unrest was exploited to serve the different interests of

strike. They would back up the union to achieve its desired goal.

A most extraordinary situation developed. Technical students, usually not very socially and politically inclined, staged a strike totally out of proportion to their own grievances. Contrary to student revolts elsewhere in the world, they seemed to be fighting for relinquishing the university's autonomy. The minister of education, much to his own discomfort, was manoeuvred into the position of referee and even of interested party. Remarkable enough it was the students of the Teachers Training College who, spurred on by the Union, were the most vocal demonstrators on the university premises.

Support among the students and staff members of the other two faculties however was minimal. Nor was any sympathy aroused among the island population. It was only because of the aforementioned structural inconsistencies that the unrest could take on such proportions and last as long as it did.

All this should not be judged too negatively. The upheaval certainly promoted a much needed awareness of the university's problems. Trustees and staff rallied to maintain the university's autonomous position. A refinement of the law on higher education was promised. The process to solve the structural perplexities was speeded up.

An untimely incorporation of the Teachers Training College was put off for the time being if not for ever. The appointment of a chancellor is imminent.

Looking at the future it seems unavoidable that the Technical College because of a lack of finance and manpower will at best survive as a small and modest faculty offering an undergraduate course. The other two far less expensive faculties, being able to work with many parttime tutors, will probably consolidate themselves. The once envisaged small centre of higher education serving the (limited) local needs and perhaps also functioning as a centre for international courses, may even have more of a chance after this catharsis. ■

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some of their tutors and the Teachers Union.

The latter for both ideological and financial reasons was eager to get a foothold within the university. Supporting a more populist concept of higher education the union advocated the incorporation of the Teacher's Training College into the university. As the union represents both students and staff of that college, such a move would provide it with the desired platform of influence and power. It would as a consequence also give opportunity to demand a raise in salary for the staffmembers of the Teachers Training College. Forces were joined with four members of the technical faculty, who were dissatisfied with their classification at the university both financially and otherwise. The union would help them exploit the student unrest into a major



## ALM from a different angle

Antilles' national airline, A.L.M., has recently been under heavy criticism. A regular target of editorial columns, the company was more in the news than ever. Limitation of inflight service, sudden schedule changes and the announcement that domestic flights might be handed over to a third party, are at the bottom of the sudden uproar.

Expectations of the small airline are both high and diverse. Determining priorities is a far from easy and most thankless task that the airline's management has to grapple with daily. Although the fleet of only four DC-9 planes is used to full capacity, satisfying everybody is obviously out of the question. As a small country the Antilles is not expected, and certainly cannot, do everything on a large scale. Neither can its warm hearted winged airline. Like similar small airlines that create miracles to achieve profitable operation, the ALM has to set its own priorities, which will not always please everybody.

There is a price for being small. Two aspects of the national airlines' operation must be distinguished. As the six islands which make up the country, depend largely on air facilities for travel and shipping goods, the ALM is indispensable. Some view this the primary 'raison d'être' of the company.

On the other hand the country's tourist industry and foreign trade also depend to a large extent on airline service. In order to provide a viable alternative to foreign airlines flying to the islands the ALM has to provide as good and reliable a service as they do. Travellers boarding an ALM plane in Miami, the majority in-transit passengers, will not tolerate unreasonable schedule delays or last minute cancellations. Neither will passengers from South America travelling via Caracas. Antillean businessmen or



photo by Pim Elisabeth

vacationers going abroad also expect prompt and on time service.

Both these national and international demands have to be met by the small fleet. To serve the latter connections adequately at least three out of the four planes are needed. Whenever one of these is grounded for inspection, required overhaul or technical reasons, the fourth plane serving the inter-island connections has to step in. ALM cannot permit itself the luxury of having a backup plane available. Such is only given to the bigger brothers. The consequence however is that domestic transportation has to pay the bill. And as the international part of the operation both for the company and the country's economy is the most important, the cancellation of some domestic flights and/or scheduling them at unattractive hours may be the price Antilleans have to pay for being a small country with a small airline.

An air taxi service between the ABC-islands in particular is often suggested as a possible solution to the problem. Experts, however, point out that the ALM will always need a fourth backup plane in order to keep up its level of international service. The question is then, if the company can still operate viably if that plane is not used on the domestic lines. Besides it should be remembered that local flights are also often part and parcel of the international flights. With a ticket to Bonaire from

Miami, the tourist can also travel at no extra charge to Aruba. This single airfare is a 'must' to encourage tourists to visit more than one island during their stay. If the tourist is required to pay extra to visit one of the other islands, which would be the case if he had to make use of air taxi service, he may well not go at all. Similarly, travellers from e.g. Bonaire joining a flight originating in Curaçao to Trinidad or Miami should be able to make this connection within the standard air fare and not have to pay extra for an air taxi.

Maintaining this local service, or feeder lines, is expensive but essential to international travel. When ALM states that they lose money on the local flights, this statement should be placed in the broader context sketched here. "One can afford to lose money on a bulb" – as one Antillean expert commented – "when you make money on the lamp".

Objectively, ALM can fairly be labelled a good airline, but there are conflicting points of view on its operation, especially on the subject of who must cover the loss suffered on the domestic flights. Some point out that in an archipelago as the Antilles, airline services fall in the category of public transport. In most modern countries public transport is heavily subsidised as governments recognise the vital importance of safe and cheap travel connections. Maybe that too is a price which this small country will have to pay.



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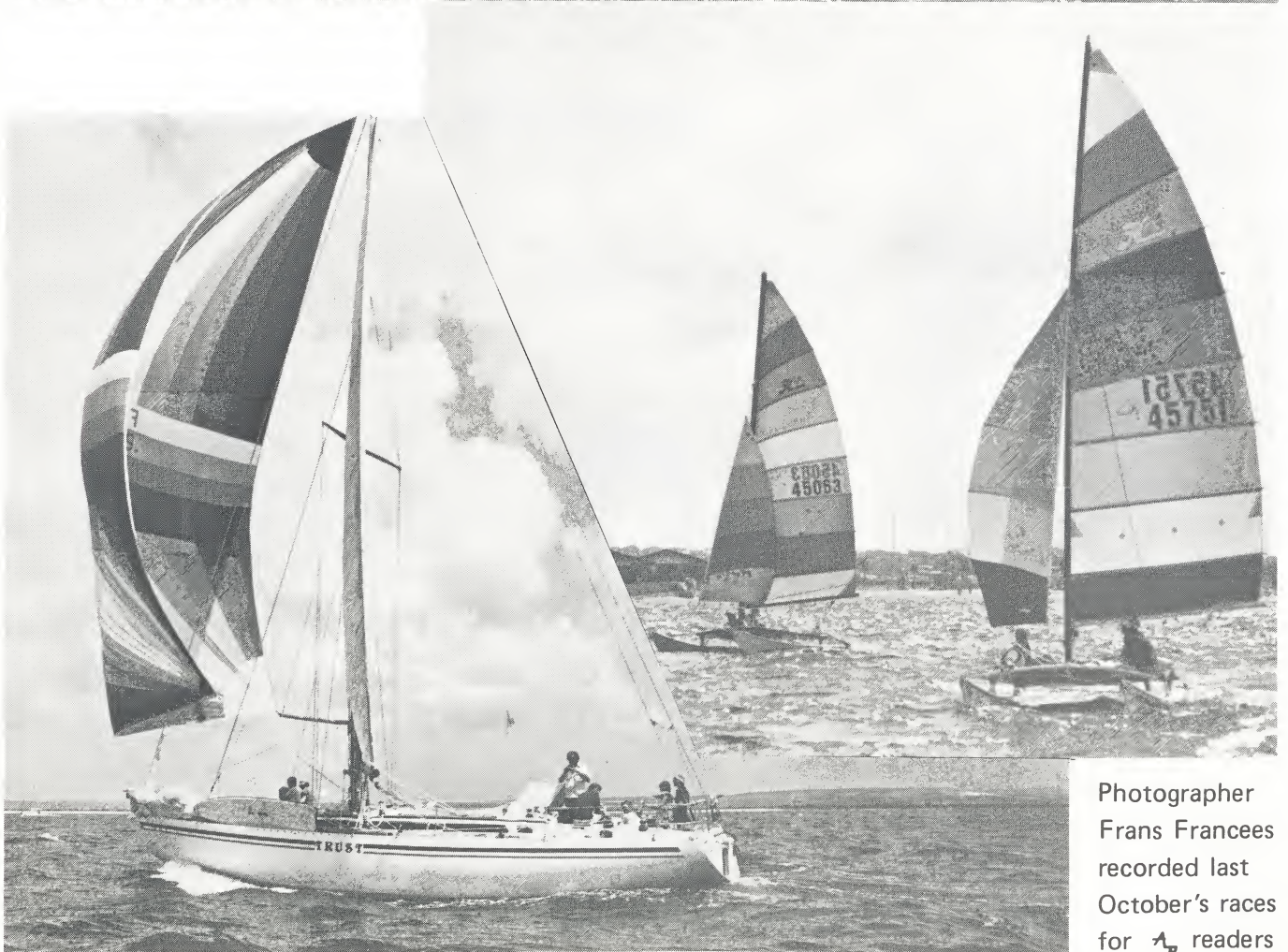
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### MEDICINE

## Pharmaceutic disorder

Collecting prescribed medicine at an Antillean pharmacy one is usually in for an unpleasant surprise. Prices on the average are outrageously high. Compared with for example Miami a difference of 30% is no exception. Insiders claim that this situation is unnecessary and largely due to a lack of consistent government planning with regard to imports, inspection and price-control. The recent installation of an advisory committee by the government to formulate proposals for effective quality, price and distribution measures, may sound the beginning of improvement.

Reviewing the pharmaceutical situation on the island of Curaçao one is confronted with a most dismaying picture. Politicians, according to the local press, have little to no interest in matters pertaining to public health. The department is certainly not sought after by parties with government responsibility. Directors of the aforesaid department have been coming and going apparently because too many tasks are heaped upon the shoulder of one man. The pharmaceutical inspection pursues its own policies which are not necessarily those of the public health department's director. A committee to propose much needed adaptations of legal regulations has in its three year existence produced not one single recommendation. The existence of two diametrically opposed associations of pharmacists may have been the main stumbling block. It certainly does not help in this or for that matter any other respect to arrive at a more healthy situation. Moreover the government inspector in a recent letter expressed his growing concern about unethical promotion and advertising by which: „pharmacies no longer distinguish themselves from other commercial enterprises’.

The need for a clearly defined government policy and resulting measures is obvious. Solutions, according to an insider, may be found in coordinating the different types of inspection and the formation of a wholesale centre, in which government as well as pharmacists and doctors may participate. This last measure would no doubt reduce commercialism, ensure a continuous supply of pharmaceutical products, simplify quality control and last but not least allow for effective price regulation. Importing directly from the USA — possibly on a government to government basis — would cut prices for as much as 30 to 50% on quite a range of items. A development which would suit many if not all Antilleans. As mentioned the government of the Netherlands Antilles seems at last decided to look into the matter. Antillean Review learned that a well known firm in the Netherlands offered their knowhow for the planning of a wholesale organisation. Hopes for improvement therefore may be harboured. ■

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### RELIGION

## Ecumenical revival



*Rev. Neville Smith*

The tide seems to have turned in favor of ecumenism in Curaçao over the past months. After almost three years of silence, the Curaçao Council of Churches is back in the news again. Says its

energetic chairman, Reverend Neville Smith: “it seems likely that the churches are on the threshold of a spiritual renewal”. Noting a growing hunger in the community for direction, Smith is of the opinion that the churches have a special responsibility to meet this need.

Having fallen into almost complete disarray after the 1977 elections because of two well intended, but highly controversial statements concerning campaign methods, the Council of Churches was on its feet again earlier this year. Being among the first to identify the alarming rise in crime, it organised a large meeting at Blauwbaai to make the public aware of this social disease. Earlier this month a follow-up meeting took place when the Council invited the youth of the island to discuss the problem from their viewpoint. Meetings were also held with the Chamber of Commerce and a representative of the Court of Justice. Declares Rev. Smith: “The rise of crime in Curaçao is not to be seen as an indication that Curaçao is unstable or that the crime rate is worse than in the rest of the Caribbean. Curaçao remains one of the most stable and tranquil islands in the area”. According to Smith, the Council will continue to meet with organisations and is in the process of drawing up a plan of action.

This vigorous approach is the result of thorough soulsearching and rebuilding of the Council. Participation of the Roman Catholic Church in the Council's work used to be minimal. Now it has increased considerably. A sharp rise has also been seen in the financial contributions of all member churches. Regular contacts with the Jewish Community look promising with regard to combined social action. Hopes to extend ecumenical work to Aruba and Bonaire seem realistic. Increased involvement of the Council in the community will certainly be promoted by the fact that the Caribbean Conference of Churches plans to have its next general assembly on Curaçao in November 1981. ■



## Mapping out socio-cultural work

The investigation into the state of socio-cultural affairs soon to be held on all the six islands of the Netherlands Antilles heralds a new development in the cultural co-operation between Holland and the Antilles. The practice of sending over Dutch experts to do this work has now been abandoned. Instead funds have been made available by the Netherlands to enable skilled Antilleans to conduct the investigation under auspices of the University of the Netherlands Antilles. Hopes are that the results may lead to a more functional course of action by decision makers. Insiders however warn that evident inertness

on the part of the authorities, who have not yet appointed full-time manpower, may well jeopardise the project, which in turn may have serious ramifications for future developments in the socio-economic sector.

Field workers and policy makers for a long time felt the need for a descriptive inventory of all socio-cultural work on the respective islands. In 1978 a report was published under the title „Socio-cultural work in the Netherlands Antilles”, compiled by Mrs. J. Hillenius-van Kraanen and Mr. L. B. van Ommen by order of the Advisory Council for Cultural Co-

operation between the two partners in the Kingdom. Comments on the report by socio-cultural organisations in the Antilles induced The Advisory Council to recommend putting funds at the disposal of „indigenous” know-how for the purpose of the research concerned. An amount of 40.000 guilders was designated for this project, which was originally planned for 1979. Preparations however took longer than was foreseen. One of the two planned research teams has now been installed and will soon start its work in the island territories of Aruba and the Windwards.

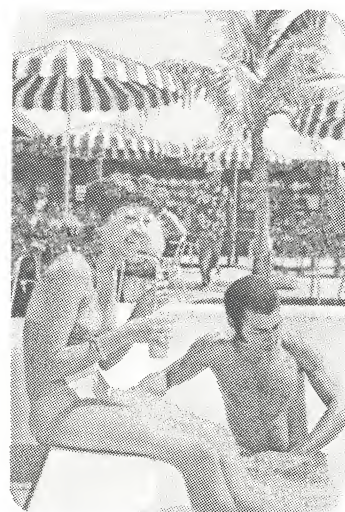
The team has been given much leeway in determining the type of research. The mandate contains the following objective:

‘to produce a descriptive inventory of the socio-cultural work, including an evaluation on the basis

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of which conclusions can be drawn with regard to future planning'. More in particular it is expected that the resulting report will produce suggestions for policy-making, the execution of the work, subsidy assistance and further research.

„The phenomenon that a group of Antillean experts has been given the opportunity with financial aid from STICUSA (Foundation for Cultural Cooperation) to investigate the state of socio-cultural affairs in their own country is a novelty in the history of Antillean culture". This remark made by a very involved Arubian was free from the usual overtones of colonial sentiment. As he explained to Review: „Since the days of van Gendt (Report on expansion possibilities of social work, 1964) and van Raadt (the extension of social work on Aruba, 1968) right up to the near past of Hendriks (First and second Advice with re-

gard to welfare-care in the Neth. Antilles, 1971 and 1977) it were experts from Holland who made studies of and advised concerning social and socio-cultural work in the Antilles. Most of these advices were based on brief orientation visits and logically influenced by their experience in social work in the Netherlands."

Of all the reports just mentioned the one of Hillenius and van Ommen had because of the criticism engendered the most far-reaching consequences for the practice of Dutch assistance in the field concerned. As mentioned before it led to the recommendation of the Advisory Council to involve local skill. A development which goes to show that Antillean (including in particular Aruban) expertise at least on this point became manifest and recognised.

This development however was not so much caused by a difference in quality between this and the other earlier mentioned reports, but rather by the increase of social and cultural workers over the past years, which allowed for more time to be spent on study

and reflection. Dutch theories on the matter concerned were in the same period (the seventies) reduced to more sensible proportions as a result of the economic decline, which uprooted the traditional thinking about the basics of social work in the Netherlands.

Obviously this manifestation of Antillean expertise can now no longer be ignored. It also sets a precedent for other fields and should therefore be given due attention.

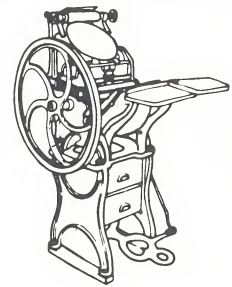
The research team active since January 1980 consists of a researcher and a back-up group of three. The first one has been freed for the job, if only part time. The others employed full time elsewhere are expected to devote themselves to the project in their leisure hours.

Obviously this will affect the quality of work and the results.

The team feels an urgent need to redefine socio-cultural work in the Neth. Antilles. Proceeding from the fact that all existing socio-cultural work was made possible by aid from Holland, both as far as finance and staff is concerned, the team wishes to sound out the people with whom the work concerns itself to hear their wishes and expectations.

Such an inventory should produce an insight into what has to be done. It would also yield a point of reference for policy making, the work itself and the granting of subsidies. The team started off by consulting existing literature and conducting a preliminary investigation, the results of which are now being analysed.

The intention is to round off the project within six months. However it is feared that unless the authorities concerned do allow the research team to do the job on a full-time basis, this experiment may very well fail. A promising development, which might extend itself to other fields like the socio-economic, would thereby be stopped short. ■



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## Drama writing in papiamentu

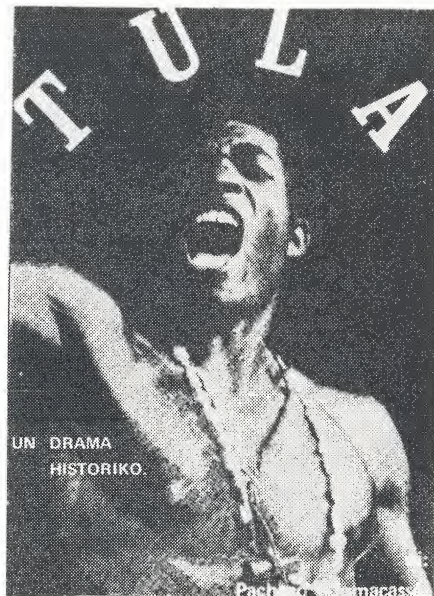
By Johannes Baptist de Caluwé

Papiamentu, the creole idiom of the Netherlands Antilles, is a well studied, though not well known, language. In a Bibliography of Pidgin and Creole Languages, which lists thousands of items taken from approximately 100 pidgins and creoles, Papiamentu has the largest listing — about 1200 publications.

Historically, there have been similarities in the use of Sranan in Surinam and Papiamentu in the Netherlands Antilles for drama, although the position of Papiamentu seems to be stronger. In most of the Netherlands Antilles — excluding the English-speaking Windward Islands — 85 percent of the population speaks Papiamentu in spite of the geographic separation by the sea of Curaçao, Aruba and Bonaire. There exists a kind of Papiamentu-Dutch diglossia in the Netherlands Antilles. Therefore, the situation there may be better compared to that in Paraguay than to that in Surinam. There the native Indian language, Guaraní, not a creole, holds a respected position in public life in relation to the colonial and school language, Spanish.

However, at educational institutions where teaching is mainly in Dutch, Papiamentu has yet to acquire its own position. An experiment was begun in 1971 to make the schools Papiamentu-Dutch. As a result of various circumstances this proved to be most difficult. Among other things there are no established spelling rules for Papiamentu, due to the unsettled political situation. The autonomy of each island makes

universal spelling rules impossible. The near future will thus surely bring Papiamentu to a more esteemed position. This contrasts with other creoles, such as Sranan



Poster advertising "Tula", a play in Papiamentu.

Tongo (also known as Surinaams, Negro-English, Nengre or Taki-Taki) which has some 450 items in the Bibliography. A comparison of these creoles is interesting, for both are flourishing in Dutch-speaking areas. The creole language of Surinam is an English-based creole, whereas that of the Netherlands Antilles, Papiamentu, is based primarily on Spanish and Portuguese.

Sranan faces greater obstacles than Papiamentu does in becoming a truly national language, since the population of Surinam is historically divided into at least five ethnic segments, most of which have their

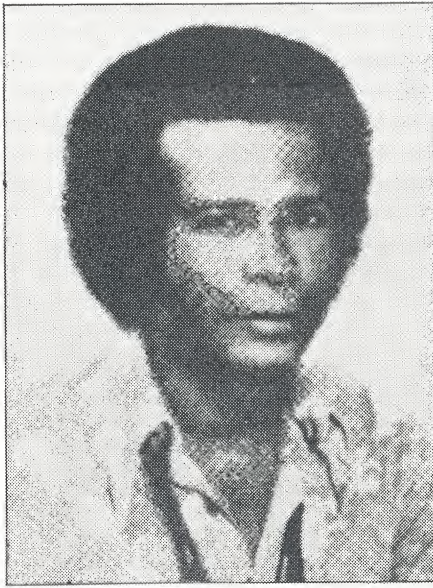
own influential language tradition: Dutch, still the official language of the numerous Indian immigrants; Javanese, the language of the immigrants from Java; and Sranan, the language of the negroes and people of mixed color, which serves as a kind of "lingua franca" for Surinam. Due to this "mix," it is uncertain whether a strongly creolized Dutch or Sranan will attain hegemony.

While the political independence of Surinam, attained in 1975, may give Sranan a better chance in the future, circumstances in the past were not ideal for writing literature in Sranan. Authors have simply preferred to write in Dutch, due to its wider use. Nevertheless, a growing number of authors now use Sranan, primarily for poetry, and folk plays. Dramatic literature in Sranan exists only on a limited scale, but theater and cabaret artists, especially since about 1950, often use Sranan in their performances. No doubt this will increase, eventually leading to a greater utilization of Sranan in written form.

Literature in Papiamentu began quite early. After a period of folk literature handed down by word-of-mouth, including the well known negro stories of Nansi (or Anasi) the spider, both newspapers and poems appeared in print during the nineteenth century. At first this literature was strongly influenced by its Spanish counterpart, but Papiamentu gradually came to lead its own life.

It first became internationally known in 1928 when the linguist Rodolfo Lenze published his Study *El Papiamentu, la lengua criolla de Curazao*, edited in Santiago, Chile. Furthermore, numerous and lengthy works of prose, such as novels, have been written in Papiamentu. Poetry, however, seems to be the highly developed genre. It has been partially influenced by works of prose, since realism, anecdotal as well as humorous, is practised in both.





A photograph of the playwright,  
Pabeco Domacassé.

This realism remains close to the folk literature which lies at its root. Thus, from these roots, wonderful lyric poetry has also been written in Papiamentu. Though it is difficult to translate, Cola Debrot has attempted a few translations in English in *Literature of the Netherlands Antilles, Curaçao*, 1964.

While prosewriters such as Cola Debrot, Tipp Marugg, Boelie van Leeuwen and Frank Martinus Arion have a wide range and recognition both in Dutch and other languages, this is not the case for the most important poets writing in Papiamentu, such as Pierre Laufer, Ellis Juliana and Federico Oduber.

## DRAMA AND NATIONHOOD

Dramatic art has always played a prominent role in the rise and consolidation of civilizations. Classic examples are the drama originating from the Dionysian cult at the cradle of the Grecian-classic civilization and the medieval dramatic art arising simultaneously with the urban centers of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries in France and the Netherlands. The ultimate shaping of the Spanish and English civilizations in the sixteenth and seventeenth

centuries was accompanied by splendid achievements in the dramatic art and has been a vital element in crucial epochs of the Chinese, Japanese and Indian civilizations. There are now signs that dramatic art in Papiamentu is about to play a part in the development of nationhood in the Netherlands Antilles comparable to the role that drama has played elsewhere.

Until recently, dramatic art in English, Spanish and especially Dutch predominated in the Netherlands Antilles. A turning point was created with the opening of a new theater, *Centro pro Arte*, in Curaçao in 1968. This meant the termination of dependence on the theater of the Royal Dutch Shell Oil Company with its European atmosphere.

Previously, plays in Papiamentu were performed outside of the Shell theater under much less favorable conditions. Musical productions as well as performances by local humorists, such as Sjon Benchi and Frenkie in Curaçao and Wois Wois in Aruba, had been popular a long time. Their humoristic repertory often acquired a satiric accent in harmony with original folk literature as well as more recent realistic prose and poetry. The appearance of the new theater should encourage the presentation of this type of drama.

Many authors have tried to raise the level of dramatic art in Papiamentu to a higher level. However, feeling that they lacked technique, they chose to adapt plays from Dutch, French, Spanish and English literature, rather than write in Papiamentu. A "drama original" written by W. Kroon in 1925, *Lucha pa Derecho (Struggle for Justice)*, remains the one exception. Furthermore, in some cases the adaptations drifted away from the original plays altogether, and started their own lives. This is clearly the case with *Juancho Picaflor* by René de Rooy, in which *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmond Rostand can be recognized. Other more-or-less free adaptations are *Sjon Pichiri (L'Avare by Moliere)*, *Laiza Porco Sushi (Pygmalion by*

*George Bernard Shaw)*, both by May Henriquez; *Illusion di Anochi (A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare)*, by Jules de Palm; and *Gay bieuw ta traba sopi sterki (Cosas de Papá y Mamá by Alonso Paso)* by Nydia Ecury.

Preference was thus still shown for the humoristic and satiric. However, interest also developed in adapting religious plays. In Aruba *Marcia de Ser'i Noka* by Nena Vrolijk and in Curaçao *Mari de Malpais* by Raúl Römer became known. Each play, in its own way, is an adaptation of the miracle play from medieval Dutch literature, *Mariken van Nieumeghen*. Comparable to these is *Bo felicidad sekami* by Ernest Rosenstand, after the famous legend *Beatrijs*, also from medieval Dutch literature. Finally, *Golgotha* by Hubert Booi can be considered an original version of the well known biblical motif. Only *Negeman* by Rolando Sillé, an adaptation of *Les Nègres* by Jean Genet, does not fit the trend of comic and religious plays.

Unfortunately, these plays are not easily available. Many have not appeared in print. An exception, *Tres Piesa di Teatro*, consisting of *Colgotha* by Hubert Booi, *Mari di Malpais* by Raúl Römer and *Sjon Pichiri* by May Henriquez was published by *Antilliaanse Cahiers* in 1967.

A new period of dramatic writing dawned around 1970. Signs of the on-coming change could be seen a few years earlier in the theatrical companies. The actors offered resistance to the "hilarity cult" on the stage; they wanted more significant dramatic art. Similarly, the riots in Curaçao on May 30, 1969 — riots with a social-political background — were also indicative of this concern.

Dramatic art in Papiamentu today mainly serves the role of providing a critical view of the present state of affairs and abuses in society while analyzing the past. Significant, then is the *Nos Causa (Our Case)*, a theater company which has been concerned with these activities for several years. Equally



significant are the titles of some plays performed on stage during the last few years, such as *Mi kolo ta mi destino?* (*Is my color my fate?*) by Stanley Bonifacio, who in earlier days worked in the style of the entertaining theater with the original play *Amor na Jan Kok*. A title such as *Konsenshi di un pueblo* with the subtitle *Un komedia di Terser Mundu* (*The Conscience of a Nation, a play of the Third World*) written by Pacheco Domacassé, tells its own story.

Not infrequently, the criticism in these plays expresses itself in satire, often using comic effects as in *Berberin den Politika* by Eligio Melfor. Thus, there is continuity of expression in regard to the comical-satirical trend of the past. The more recent productions, however, essentially represent a search for identity. Now that the Antillean society has become a source of inspiration for conscious, involved dramatic art, Papiamentu novelists, such as Guillermo Rosario have turned to writing for the stage as well. *Esta un Jaja* (*a jaja* is a nursemaid) is an example.

Parallel to this development, plays in Papiamentu for children are springing up. This first began in 1971 with dramatic versions of

the well known folktales *kuentanan di Nansi* about Nansi the Spider. Later in 1973 it took the form of a play which was avant garde in style and tenor. Titled *Buchi Wán Pia Fini* it was about a working class boy, Buchi Wan, who attacks the problems of Antillean society. This play was written by Diana Lebac, a successful author of children's books in Dutch as well as very readable, simple Papiamentu.

Still, one tendency that occurs in poetry but which has not clearly penetrated original drama in Papiamentu is the romantic trend, dominated by unfulfilled desires and passions. Perhaps the play *Tula* by Pacheco Domacassé foreshadows this type of dramatic art in the Netherlands Antilles. In this play, a greater pathos is displayed than in other plays written in Papiamentu. It deals with the abortive revolt in 1795 of the slaves in Curaçao against the colonial authorities; Tula being one of the leaders of this revolt. The play not only attempts to depict and interpret something of the past, but its composition also appeals to folklore, becoming an attempt to find one's own style of acting, based on the strongly developed rhythmic spirit of the Caribbean personality. It is to be

expected that when this style has been found, future dramatic scripts will reflect it. Until recently, the dramatic techniques of the scripts were strongly reminiscent of European drama writing. In this respect liberation is far from complete. However, recent developments of dramatic writing in Papiamentu have opened remarkable perspectives in this direction.

Some of these works have been published in Curaçao. (*Konsenshi di un pueblo* in 1973; *Tula* in 1975). The greater simplicity and directness of the language in this written form — unlike the subjective, extremely subtle linguistic use in poetry — makes the dramatic scripts easily intelligible, even for those whose mastery of Papiamentu is limited. This should result in the publication of translations. In view of the setting of the theme, and the familiarity of the problems dealt with in the Caribbean area, it seems likely that English and Spanish, and to a lesser extent French and Dutch, will be the languages into which translation will initially be undertaken. ■

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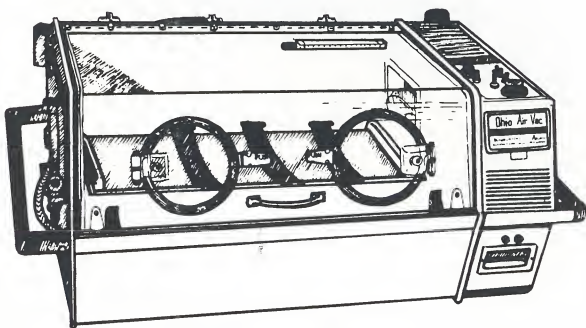


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## Relations between Curacao and Venezuela

*a historical analysis by  
dr. J. van Soest, university of the  
Neth. Antilles.*

Published in Dutch.

Is historical error the only reason for Curaçao not being part of Venezuela? Many of its southern neighbours do not doubt it. Others less overtly possessive consider the islanders at least fellow south-americans. Both views are wrong, maintains dr. Jaap van Soest in his latest publication. As far back as the days of the spanish empire Curaçao was already part of two worlds: the mainland and the caribbean. All through the subsequent ages this position was confirmed and strengthened.

Only in recent times have its relations to the caribbean been overshadowed by an increasing venezuelan influence. But its position remains, writes van Soest, fundamentally ambivalent. From over there this dry rock may look like an extension of the latin-american continent, from the caribbean angle Curaçao forms a genuine if somewhat eccentric part of the archipel. To reconcile both views in a balanced foreign policy is the far from easy task awaiting Curaçao on its path to independence.

These and more challenging remarks found in the final chapter make van Soest's historical analysis worthwhile reading not only for students of times past, but for many others as well. Present and future are given a perspective worth considering even if one does not agree with all his deductions.

From a historical point of view the Curaçao-Venezuela relations over the past centuries fall easily into four categories, according to the writer. Each of them

dominated by one outstanding characteristic, all of which still play a role today.

During the 17th and 18th centuries it was the commercial element that became most predominant. Even before, while still under spanish rule, the island began to develop itself as a trade-link between the mainland and the caribbean. The following heydays of protectionism thrust the island almost naturally into the position of a free-harbour and an aggressive smuggling centre. Its path was set for centuries to come.

"Experience has taught, so quotes van Soest an unknown Curacao-lene writing in 1826, that whenever an upheaval takes place in the West-indies, Curaçao is resorted to either for assistance or to find refuge. The most prosperous times were those when war raged in the area." And that, says van Soest, applies in particular to the second period, which began with the Venezuelan war of independence. Curaçao trying to uphold at least a semblance of neutrality played its own role, often with no small benefit.

During the larger part of the present century the relationship is dictated by the multinational Shell. Internal instability in the mainland country forces Shell to build a large refinery on the island. Curaçao again is careful to maintain its neutrality. Oil binds the two countries together and at the same time keeps them apart.

In the early sixties a new period announces itself. Significant changes occur. Democracy takes root in Venezuela. The oil-industry is nationalised and a bid made for the refinery on the small neighbouring island. Curaçao finds itself confronted with an increasingly powerful but highly courteous Caracas.

It definitely has lost the initiative and finds difficulty reacting adequately. This leads van Soest to his conclusions, reading almost as a farewell message to a community he recently left.

Curaçao is reminded that its relationship to Venezuela does not tell the whole story. For ages there have been other relationships as well and it should nurture its intermediate position.

He points out that since the afro-curacaolenes have come to the political foreground the distance to Venezuela has grown wider, whereas with respect to the other Caribbean states, with whom they decidedly have more in common, the distance has narrowed. A continuing strong democracy would, according to van Soest, lead to stronger ties with the Caribbean countries and keep Venezuela at bay. The latter has a deep respect for democratic principles.

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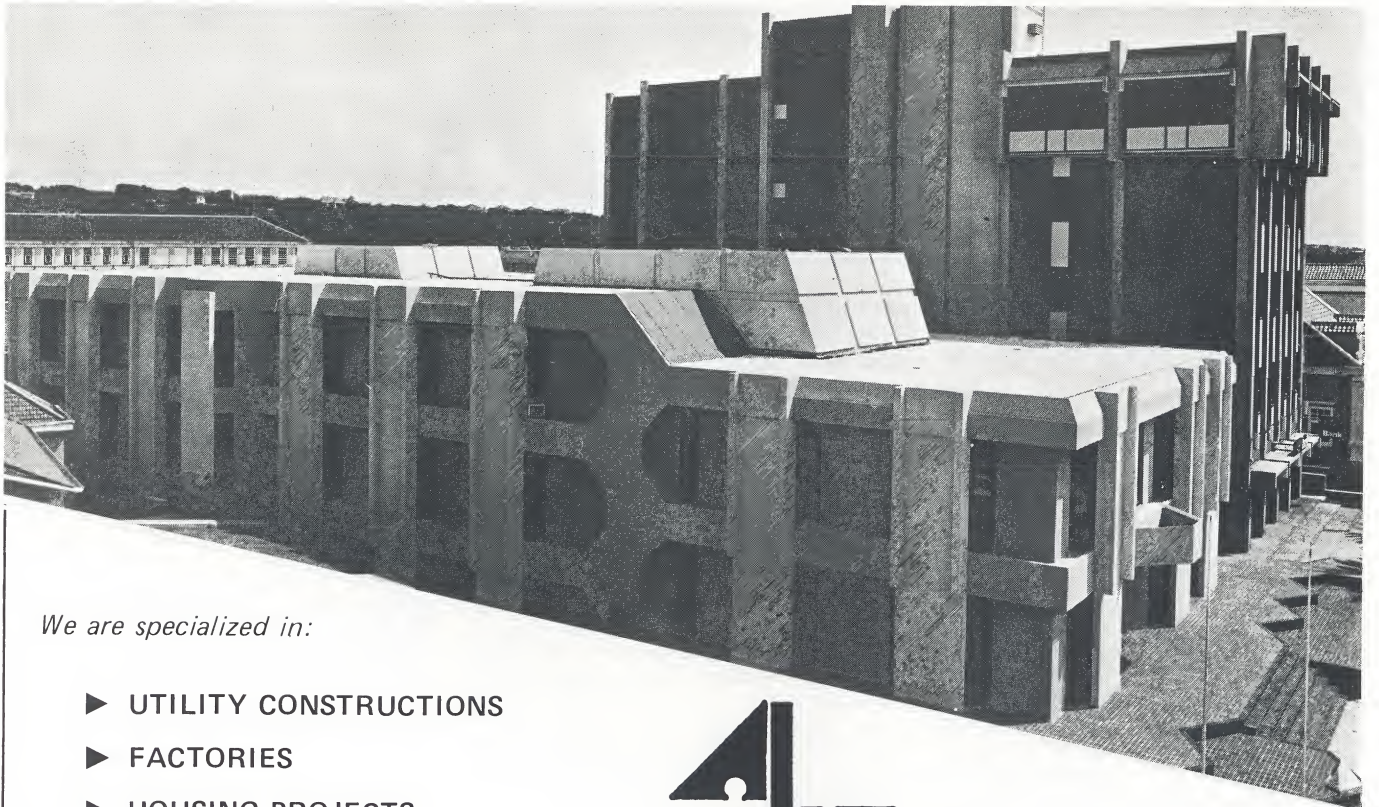


Modern technology, he adds, has also brought many other countries closer and pushed Venezuela relatively farther away. Human intervention has by means of modern transport and communication corrected Curaçao's natural closeness to the mainland.

He closes with a strong appeal to develop a well-defined policy formulating answers, which can be labeled 'made in Curaçao', to counteract Venezuela's growing influence.

An interesting little book (36 pages, Naf. 6.-) giving a suprising amount of detailed information with at least one blatant omission: it speaks of Curaçao as if it is an entity by itself. Not once are the other islands of the Netherlands Antilles mentioned. Or does van Soest regard that relationship as a historical error?





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by Alice van Romondt

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*Surinamese and Antilleans in Amsterdam.* Record of an investigation conducted in 1977 by Ineke Gooskens, Jenny Hooft and Marielle Freeman (Investigation Project Surinamese and Antilleans) among the Surinamese and Antilleans in Amsterdam. The report consists of volume 1: Analysis, volume 11: tabular statements. At the same time an abbreviated version of the investigation results was published. A publication of the Social Affairs and Government Information Section of the municipality of Amsterdam, Singel 250-256, 1016 Ab.

The following subjects are dealt with: housing, employment, unemployment, education and training, as well as assistance and services.

Thon Raes: *De naamlozen (The nameless).*

An account of travel in the Caribbean. During his trips to Surinam, the Netherlands Antilles, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela the reporter Thon Raes spoke to people who in their own – small – way dedicate themselves to development work. The book was published at the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Cebemo by the Stichting Gemeenschappelijk Missie-publiciteit, Deurne, Joint publication 12. Can be ordered at the address: P.O. Box 33, 5750 AA Deurne. Price: Nf. 9.50.

Paul Edward de Jong: *Sickle cell nephropathy.* New insights into its pathophysiology. Thesis on which the author obtained his degree in medicine at the State University of Groningen. In this thesis the results of the investigation conducted in Curaçao on nephropathy in sickle cell anemia (SCA) patients are described. Sticusa contributed financially. Address: State University Groningen, clinic for internal medicine, Oostersingel 59, 9713 EZ Groningen. Price Nf. 20.—

E. A. J. Kamerbeek: *Landhuis Ascension (Country house Ascension)* Socio-Cultural centre of the Royal Dutch Navy. In order to prevent complete delapidation Stichting Monumentenzorg (Foundation for the Preservation of Monuments) purchased the country house Ascension in 1960 and had it restored in subsequent years. At present it is in use by the Royal Dutch Navy as socio-cultural centre. Naval chaplain Kamerbeek illustrates the history of the house by means of many citations. Published by Stichting Vrienden van Ascension (Foundation Friends of Ascension), Trompetbloemweg 9, Willemstad, Curaçao, Price NAF. 12.50.

Wilko A. G. M. Bergmans: *De bastaard van Bonaire (The bastard from Bonaire).*

This novel based on real-life data covers the role played by the island of Bonaire in the years 1940-1945. Publisher: Wedrego, Heerlen. Price Nf. 19.75.

Walter Palm: *Genesis and Apocalypse.* His second volume of poetry (after *Winds of Words*) Published privately. Printed by Offset Printing Shop Montero, Curaçao. Price NAF. 4.90.

J. Hartogh: *Twelve forts of the Netherlands Antilles.* A short description of the following forts: Fort Amsterdam, Waterfort, Riffort, Fort Nassau, Fort Waakzaamheid, Fort Sint Michiel, Fort Beekenburg, Fort Zoutman (Aruba), Fort Oranje (Bonaire), Fort Amsterdam (Sint Maarten), Fort Oranje (Sint Eustatius), Natural fort (Saba), with a drawing of each of them done by Armando Ravelo. Publisher: "Beaujonville" Mansion, Begoniaweg 30, Curaçao.

M. J. de Lannoy-Berg: *The significance of government information for our development.* Objective of this memo: to provide insight into the extensive field of activities of the Government Information Service (RVD) of the Netherlands Antilles, to see to it that measures are taken in order to arrive at an optimal functioning of the RVD; to promote the creation of well-structured government information through definition of the tasks. Address RVD: Fort Amsterdam, Willemstad, Curaçao.

T. C. Wong: *Simulation as an aid in evaluating an alternative election formula for the Netherlands Antilles.* In this study an election formula for the Netherlands Antilles is suggested, as a result of which the islands might continue as a unity without the now existing problems with the electoral system. Graduation report Technische Hogeschool Delft (Higher Technical College Delft), General Science Section, sub-section Mathematics, Julianalaan 132, 2600 AT Delft.

Susanne Everett: *Slavernij door de eeuwen heen (Slavery through the ages).* The book contains the shocking story of a human evil that has existed almost ineradicably from the remote antiquity up to the present. The book is richly illustrated (more than 300 pictures, some of them in colour).

Paragraph 11 covers slavery in the West Indies.

Published by De Walburg Pers, (The Walburg press) Zutphen.

Price: Nf. 55.—

Bart Bredero: *Boven de wind en onder de gordel (Above the wind and below the belt).*

This true story about the Antilles deals with problems and questions concerning development work referring to a number of personal experiences of the author, who was the representative of the Netherlands in the Netherlands Antilles from 1970-1976. Issued privately. Printed by Offset Drukkerij Montero, Curaçao. Price: NAF. 9.—

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Professional journal for jurists published by the stichting Tijdschrift voor Antilliaans recht (Foundation Magazine on Antillean Law), formed on June 20th, 1980. Subscriptions to this quarterly magazine, which came into being with the help of the University of the Netherlands Antilles, may be taken out by depositing the subscription fee at Algemene Bank Nederland Curaçao account nr. 1350498, at Maduro & Curiel's Bank, Curaçao account nr. 872364 or at Algemene Bank Nederland, Amsterdam account nr. 54.03.-53.477.

Price: NAF. 40.— a year or Nf. 45.— for subscribers in Holland, NAF. 30.— a year for students or Nf. 35.— for students in Holland. ■



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